



National Archives and Records Administration

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USER NOTE

System and/or File Title: Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS), 1950-2006

I. List of Files

The records of the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS), 1950 – 2006 consist of two data files and one documentation file. The file names are listed below.

Item	File Name
Data File	DCAS_1950_2005_DAT
Data File	DCAS_2006_DAT
Agency Layout and Codes	DCAS_DOC_PDF

The two data files comprise the entire set of casualty records for the years 1950 to 2006. The file DCAS_1950_2005_DAT contains the records for the years 1950 to 2005, and the file DCAS_2006_DAT contains the records for only the year 2006. The layout for DCAS_1950_2005_DAT is found in the file DCAS_DOC_PDF but there is no agency generated layout for DCAS_2006_DAT. The layouts for the two data files are not identical. Many of the data elements have slightly different names between the two layouts, although the data element descriptions remain the same. The file DCAS_2006_DAT has nine fewer data elements than the file DCAS_1950_2005_DAT.

II. Documentation

The primary documentation for the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS), 1950-2006 consists of the code lists found in DCAS_DOC_PDF. Two additional code lists were used from the supplemental materials for the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS), Vietnam Conflict Extract File, accession number NN3-330-08-010. These were the code lists DCAS_STATE_CODES and DCAS_GEO, which were used for the data element descriptions Home of Record State, Casualty State or Province Code, and Casualty Country/Over Water Code.

In folder 4, the two pages of agency code tables for death cause, which refer to DD1300 in the first row, have an error. The data in the first three columns is respectively "DD1300 block 5a", "DD1300 block 5b", and "DD1300 block 5C". DD1300 is the Department of Defense Report of Casualty form. Blocks 5a, 5b, and 5c refer to data fields on the form. By comparing the descriptors "5a", "5b", and "5c" and the column headings of "Type", "Status," and "Category" against the actual DD1300 form it was determined that the block numbers

are errors. The data in the columns corresponds with blocks 4a, 4b, and 4c on form DD1300.

Minor discrepancies within the documentation DCAS_DOC_PDF, were discovered during the data verification process for the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS). The explanations of the discrepancies are listed below.

Duty Status and Duty Code: The agency documentation DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists two different code tables for the data element description Duty Code. For the file DCAS_1950_2005_DAT the data element is D, column 33, and the code lists the expected values of C, N, Y, and Z. For the file DCAS_2006_DAT the data element is DUTY_CODE, column 35, and the code lists the expected values of Y and N.

Hostile Indicator: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, does not list a complete code table for the data element description Hostile or Non-Hostile Death Indicator. The table lists the value H for Hostile, but no value for Non-Hostile. The data file DCAS_1950_2005_DAT uses the value NH for Non-Hostile. The data file DCAS_2006_DAT uses the value N for Non-Hostile.

III. Automatic Data Verification

The first row of the two Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) data files was a header row that did not include any record material. The entire row was skipped in order for the data files to be loaded and verified in the Archival Electronic Records Control (AERIC) utility. This did not alter the data in any way.

Mechanical errors in the formatting of the data as received from the agency were discovered during the data verification process for the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) file DCAS_1950_2005_DAT. 155 records were missing the second enclosure string for the data element Unit_NM, column 32. This error prevented the file from being loaded as a table in the Archival Electronic Records Inspection Control (AERIC) utility. A quotation mark (") was manually inserted at the end of the field in those 155 records in order to successfully create and load the table. This change did not alter the data in any way.

An error in the formatting of the data file DCAS_1950_2005_DAT was discovered during the verification process using the Archival Records Inspection Control (AERIC) utility. During automated verification, a large number of records were returned with Oracle error 00907 in the data element field UNIT_NM, column 32. The error signifies a missing right parenthesis in this field. Since this error is mechanical and not related to the data, the table was successfully created and loaded but the data element, UNIT_NM, was not verified in its entirety.

IV. Data

Two records with death dates in 2006 are found in the file DCAS_1950_2005_DAT. These records are not duplicated in the file DCAS_2006_DAT.

Minor discrepancies between the data and the documentation were discovered during the data verification process for the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) files DCAS_1950_2005_DAT and DCAS_2006_DAT. The explanations of the discrepancies are divided by file, listed alphabetically by Data Field Description, and are described below.

DCAS_1950_2005_DAT

Casualty Country/Over Water Code: The agency documentation, Vietnam Conflict and Korean War File Layout, lists the expected values for the data element CAS_CTRY, column 29. A small number of records contain null values.

Casualty State or Province Code: The agency documentation Vietnam Conflict and Korean War File Layout, lists the expected values for the data element CAS_ST, column 28. A large number of records contain null values.

Duty Code: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values C, N, Y, and Z for the data element D, column 33. A large number of records contain null values.

Home of Record State Code: The agency documentation, Vietnam Conflict and Korean War File Layout, lists the expected values for the data element HOR_ST, column 17. A large number of records contain null values.

Hostile or Non-Hostile Death Indicator: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of H or NH for the data element H, column 43. A small number of records have null values.

Incident Casualty Category Short Name: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of BLG, BSG, DET, INT, MIA, MSG, POW, or WIA for the data element ICSN, column 53. A small number of records contain the value of TER that is not listed in the documentation.

Incident Hostile or Incident Non-Hostile Death: The agency documentation DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of H or NH for the data element I_H, column 54. A large number of records contain null values.

Member Component Code: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of G, R, T, V, and Y for the data element C, column 2. A number of records contain the value of X that is not listed in the documentation.

Member Paygrade: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of C00, E01 – E09, O01 – O11, and W01 – W05 for the data element PG, column 9. One record contains the value of SA that is not listed in the documentation.

Operation Incident Type Code: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of C, E, O, and T for the data element OITP, column 38. A large number of records contain null values.

Remains Recovered: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of N and Y for the data element BODY_RECOV, column 48. A small number of records have null values.

War or Conflict Code: The agency documentation, DCAS_DOC_PDF, lists the expected values of G, K, P, T, and V for the data element WC, column 37. A small number of records contain null values.

DCAS 2006 DAT

Casualty Country/Over Water Code: The agency documentation, Vietnam Conflict and Korean War File Layout, lists the expected values for the data element CAS_CTRY, column 31. A small number of records contain null values.

Casualty State or Province Code: The agency documentation, Vietnam Conflict and Korean War File Layout, lists the expected values for the data element CASUALTY_STATE_CODE, column 30. A large number of records contain null values.

Home of Record State Code: The agency documentation, Vietnam Conflict and Korean War File Layout, lists the expected values for the data element HOME_STATE_CODE, column 20. A Small number of records contain null values.

V. Access

These files were ingested in the Electronic Records Archive (ERA) on July 13, 2009. They are accessible through the ERA Asset Catalog at:

Home / Records Schedules / DAL-0330-2009-0001 / DAL-0330-2009-0001-0001 / TR-0330-2009-0003 / TR-0330-2009-0003-SM-001 / Shipment Content

NARA staff created public use files masking the identification number in column one. The public use files were ingested in the Electronic Records Archive (ERA) on June 16, 2010. The file names are listed below.

Item	File Name
Data File	PUF.DCAS19502005.DAT
Data File	PUF.DCAS2006.DAT

The public use files are accessible through the ERA Asset Catalog at:

Home / Records Schedules / DAL-0330-2009-0001 / DAL-0330-2009-0001-0001 / TR-0330-2010-0006 / TR-0330-2010-0006-SM-001 / Shipment Content